1690

THE Declaration and Manifesto OF THE PROTESTANTS OF THE VALLIES of PIEDMONT, CALLED THE VAUDOIS,

TO ALL

Christian PRINCES & STATES,

OF THE

REASONS of their taking up ARMS just now against the Duke of *SAVOY*.

And why they have put themselves under the Protection of *WILLIAM*, King of *Great Britain*, and of the Evangelick Cantons of *Switzerland*.

Done out of High Dutch.

Licensed *February* the 8*th*. $16\frac{89}{90}$.

LONDON:

Printed for *Tho. Salusbury*, at the Sign of the *Temple* near *Temple-Bar* in *Fleet-street*, 1690.

E 3048

of Castlemaine &c = Vaudois Manifesto = 17th Month = Queries 26 Parliament men 1690

TO ALL

Christian Emperors,

Kings, Princes, and States,

THE

Remonstrance *and* Declarations

OF US

The Native and Ancient Inhabitants of the Vallies *of* Lucerne, Pierouse, *and* St. Martin, *commonly called the* Vallies *of* Piedmont, *Greeting.*

IT is not unknown to all *Europe*, That of Time out of Mind, we and *our Ancestors* have been in the uninterrupted Possession of the aforesaid *Vallies*, and of the same Religion which we profess at this very day, without any considerable Alteration either in *Doctrine* or *Discipline*: And

 that

that under the Succeſſive Reigns of the Princes of *Piedmont* and *Pignerol*: And that at length about *Four Hundred* Years ago, upon the failing of the *Princes* of that Family, we put our ſelves under the Dominion of the *Houſe of Savoy*, upon certain *Conditions* and *Articles* then agreed on for Security of our Religion and Liberties.

Under which Family of *Savoy* our Anceſtors lived in the greateſt Peace and Eaſe for two Ages and more, till by the unhappy Counſels of ſome about our *Princes*, we were put to great Severities in the laſt Age, on the Account of Religion; notwithſtanding whereof, Their *Royal Highneſſes* were pleaſed at ſeveral times, and upon ſeveral occaſions, to Ratifie our *Rights* and *Privitledges*, and to grant us full and free Liberty in the Exerciſe of our Religion; and particularly in the Years 1561, 1602, 1603, and in the Year 1620. All which were Formally and Solemnly *Ratified* and Enrolled in the *Chamber* of *Turin*, and declared to be *Irrevocable*, *Inviolable*, and *Perpetual Laws*: And the Execution thereof was Ordained by ſeveral *Decrees* of the ſaid *Chamber*, and by the *Senate* of *Turin*, in the years 1638, 1649, 1654, and 1655.

In which year 1655, the *Council de Propaganda fide*, ſetled at *Turin* ſome years before, taking the Occaſion of the *Minority* of *Charles Emanuel*, then *Duke of Savoy*, cauſed to be Publiſhed an *Edict*, Ordering all the Inhabitants of the *Wallies* to quit them within three days, and to retire to the Mountains,

tains, under the pain of Death, in case they did not Renounce and Abjure their Religion they had been Educated in. And albeit the said *Inhabitants* did really Obey this Unjust Order, as much as the shortness of time granted them would allow, by making ready to Remove, yet upon it fell out that *Horrid and Execrable Massacre*, whereof all *Europe* has to this day an Abhorrence. But at length, by the Intercession of several Christian *Princes* and *States* with the then *Duke of Savoy*, and the *Dutchess*, then Regent, the said Cruel *Edict* of putting us all *to the edge of the Sword*, was recalled, and a new *Confirmation* given *Us* as to *Our* whole Liberties, and the free Exercise of our Religion, upon the 9*th*. of *August* 1655. which was thereafter enrolled in the *Senate* and *Chamber* of *Turin*.

Notwithstanding this *Confirmation* of our Priviledges, several bad *Ministers* did in many particulars infringe it by Oppressions and designed stretches of Law; and at last, in the Year 1663, they re-acted the same Tragedies upon *Us*, as they had done in the Year 1655. At which time, at the Intercession of the same Christian Princes, we obtained another Solemn, Irrevocable, and Perpetual *Patent* in the Month of *February* 1664, likewise Ratified in the *Senate* and *Chamber* of *Turin*.

Since which time, We, the *Inhabitants* of the *Valleys*, lived in great Peace, and did many Remarkable and Important Services to the late *Duke of Savoy*, Father to his present *Royal Highness*, and to his *Royal Highness*

Highness himself both in the *War* against the *State and Republick of Genoa* in the Year 1672. and against the *Barbets* in *Mondovi* in the Year 1683, and 1684. As was acknowledged by his *Royal Highness* in his *Letters* written to *Us* on that Occasion, which was also *Inrolled* in the *Chamber* of *Accounts* of *Turin*.

Thus *We* rested secure of our own Innocence, and of the many reiterated Assurances of his *Royal Highnesses* Favour to and Protection of *Us*, till the 31st. day of *January* 1685. At which time, without any imaginable Provocation on our part, there was published in the *Valleys* an *Edict* of his *Royal Highness* the *Duke of Savoy*, *Prohibiting the Exercise of our Religion upon pain of Death, and Confiscation of Moveables, ordering all our Churches to be immediately Demolished, all our Ministers to be Banished, all our Children to be Educated and Baptized in the Romish Catholick Religion.*

This Dreadful *Edict* was received among *Us* with the greatest Astonishment, and in a moment seem'd to dissipate *Us* altogether.

But at length we so far recovered our selves from our Consternation, as to fall upon the ordinary means we had many times try'd before; And considering that it was more the effect of bad Counsel, than from the Natural Inclinations of his *Royal Highness* himself, of whose good Intentions towards *Us* we had so many Proofs: We had Recourse to *Supplications*, and presented his *Royal Highness* four several *Petitions* for recalling this Bloody *Orders*; and at the

the same time made our *Address* to the *Evangelick Cantons* of *Switzerland*, to Intercede with his *Royal Highness* on our behalf.

Whereupon in an *Assembly* of the said *Cantons*, held at *Baden* in the Month of *February* 1686. they dispatch'd *Embassadors* to his *Royal Highness* at *Turin*, to sollicit the Revocation of that *Edict* against *Us*; And all the Answer they could obtain, was, That *It was not in his power to recall the Edict, because his Royal Highness had past his Word to the Most Christian King already to the contrary.* Whereupon the Embassadors of the *Evangelick Cantons*, seeing no other way at present to save *Us*, propos'd to the *Court* of *Turin*, That We, the Inhabitants of the *Vallies*, might have leave betwixt that and a fixt time, to depart to any other Country, with our Families and Goods, under the *Duke of Savoy's Safe Conduct*. And to this end, the said Embassadors procured leave from his *Royal Highness* to allow certain *Deputies* of *Ours* to come to *Turin*, in order to concert and agree on the *Articles*.

But in the mean time that we were meeting in an Assembly at *Angrogne* about this Affair, came out a *Second Order* from his *Royal Highness*, unknown to the said Embassadors, bearing Date *Ninth* of *April* 1686, for an *Amnesty* to the Inhabitants of the *Vallies*, upon Condition they immediately remove out of his *Royal Highnesses* Countries, with their Families and Goods, But the *Order* so clog'd and full of Limitations and Restrictions, that it was palpable to every body, that it was nothing but a Snare to intrap

trap *Us*, and to delude the Sollicitations of the Embassadors of the *Evangelick Cantons*. For according to the Terms of this Order, *We were to Remove in so few days, to leave such and such things behind us; we were to be separated in small Troops, so many miles from one another*; That we expected to be just so treated as in the *Massacre* in the Year 1655. Upon which sad Juncture, we resolved to stand to our own Innocent and Lawful Defence, till we might appease by Foreign Intercessions the Wrath of the *Duke of Savoy*, and obtain for our selves a lasting Peace.

In perseverance of this Resolution, It's known sufficiently to all the World, what dreadful *Afflictions, Murthers, Rapes, Tortures*, and all manner of *Barbarities* we suffered by an Army of *Savoy* on the one hand, and of *France* on the other, till we were reduced to a poor handful of *starved* and *infirm* Creatures, whereof the most of them perished in the *Mountains* for Hunger. And at last, the miserable remainder, after our Enemies had sufficiently glutted their Rage with the Blood of our Brethren, were sent away to *Geneva* and *Switzerland* in the most deplorable Condition that ever was seen in the World: Many of *Us* dying in the Road through Cold and Sickness. Since which time we have been forced to wander in strange Countries, where we have been against our wills burthensom to the Inhabitants, who have shewed *Us* a Christian Sympathy and Compassion.

We

We, *the Inhabitants of the foresaid Vallies*, Considering that by no Laws of God, or just Constitutions of Men, we can be justly thrown out of our *Native Country*, and debarred from the Exercise of our Ancient Religion, which both the one and the other, we and our Fathers have enjoyed and possessed through a great many Ages. And *Considering* that his *Royal Highness* and his Predecessors have at several times Ratified to *Us* and our *Ancestors*, the Liberties of our Country, the Property of our Goods, and the free Exercise of our Religion: And that the said *Ratifications* were declared to be Irrevocable and Perpetual Laws. And likewise *Considering*, That We, *the said Inhabitants of the said Vallies*, are perswaded in our Consciences, *That it's our Duty to Vindicate and Assert our Religion and Properties with our Sword*, they having been granted to *Us* upon just grounds and motives by our Princes. We therefore, trusting in the Protection, Help, and Assistance of the Almighty God, the Lord of Hosts, do Declare and make known to all Christian *Emperours*, *Kings*, *Princes*, *and Free States*, That we resolve *to stand by*, *Vinditate*, *and Maintain our Lives*, *Religion*, *Liberties*, *and Properties* with open Force, and in a Defensive way; and not to lay down our Arms, till we have procured to our selves the free and peaceable Possession of our *Country*, *Goods*, *Lives*, *Religion*, *and Liberties*, in the same manner as we enjoyed them before the Year 1684; and as is contained in all the *Ratifications* granted to *Us* and our *Ancestors* above-mentioned. *Declaring*, That We by this our most warrantable and just Defence intend

not to diminish, detract from, or lay aside any of the just and lawful Prerogatives, Prehéminencies, Customs, Jurisdictions, or Royalties due to *His Royal Highness* and his *Successors*, from *Us* and our Successors; But that we are willing, and shall ever pay his said *Royal Highness* and his Successors all due Allegiance and Homage, which can consist with the free Liberty of our Religion, and with the peaceable Enjoyment of our Goods, Liberties, and Properties.

And We, *the said Inhabitants of the said Vallies*, do hereby in the *Bowels of Jesus Christ our common Saviour*, Obtest, Require, and Beg all Christian *Emperours, Kings, Princes, and Free States*, that they would Compassionate our Condition, and Intercede with His *Royal Highness the Duke of Savoy*, for the Restoring to *Us* the Rights, Properties, and Liberties that have been so cruelly and unjustly ravished from *Us*; and that they would procure to *Us* a firm and lasting Peace, that we may no more be exposed to such horrid *Barbarities* and Distresses for the Religion we derive from our Fathers, through the Succession of a great many past Ages.

And We, *the said Inhabitants of the said Vallies*, do hereby Declare, That We, in execution of this so just a Resolution of Vindicating our Religion and Liberties by Arms, have at this time entred into the said Valley of *St. Martin*, to take Possession thereof as a part of our Native Country, out of which we were unjustly driven; and are resolved, through the Blessing and Favour of Almighty God, to keep it, and to take Possession, as soon as is possible, of the remanent *Vallies* and *Territories*, which justly belong

to *Us* by an immemorial Right; Reſolving to keep the ſame without Prejudice to the juſt Prerogatives, Preheminencies, Cuſtoms, Juriſdictions, or Royalties, in or concerning the ſaid *Vallies*, due to *His Royal Highneſs* the *Duke of Savoy*, and his Succeſſors, as Prince of *Piedmont*, when ever a firm and laſting Peace ſhall be granted to *Us*.

And laſtly, We, *the ſaid Inhabitants of the ſaid Vallies of Piedmont*, do Declare to all Chriſtian *Emperours, Kings, Princes, and States*, That we have, and do hereby put our ſelves under the *Protection* and *Patronage* of the moſt *Serene Prince* William, *King of* Great Britain, *and of the Illuſtrious and Noble the Evangelick Cantons of Switzerland*; hoping and truſting in their Aſſiſtance and good Offices, as alſo in the Aſſiſtance and good Offices of all other Chriſtian *Emperours, Kings, Princes, and Free States*, until there be a firm and laſting Peace obtained for *Us* from his *Royal Highneſs* the *Duke of Savoy*, or his Succeſſors, and Ratified in the *Senate* and *Chamber of Accounts* of *Turin*.

All which things above-mentioned, We hereby make known to all Chriſtian Princes and People, by this our Solemn Declaration, given at our Camp at *Villeſecht*, in the *Valley* of *St. Martin*, this *Sixth* day of *December*, 1689.

F I N I S.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE *History of the Late Revolution in* England, *with the Causes and Means by which it was Accomplished. Together with the* Settlement *thereof under Their Most Serene Majesties King* William *and Queen* Mary, *by the* Lords *and* Commons *Assembled in this present Parliament.*

Of the French Monarchy, *and* Absolute Power. *And also a Treatise of the Three States, and their Power. Deduced from the most Authentick Histories, for above* 1200 *Years.* Both Printed for *Tho. Salusbury*, at the Sign of the *Temple* near *Temple-Bar* in *Fleet-street*, 1689.